

Adult Short Term Training

Title: Centers for New Directions (CND)

Reference: Equal Opportunity for Displaced Homemaker Act
Idaho Code [39-5007] 39-4907

State Professional-Technical Education funds for implementing Single Parent/Displaced Homemakers Programs were established under the Idaho Equal Opportunity for Displaced Homemaker Act. This Act established a dedicated account into which \$20 from each divorce filed is placed. These divorce fees combined with state PTE funds are allocated and distributed to the six *Centers for New Directions*. Centers offer a wide range of activities to encourage women to pursue nontraditional careers, such as mentoring programs, job shadowing opportunities, panels and conferences where speakers are employed in nontraditional careers, classes in computer literacy, use of hand and power tools, math tutoring, and support groups. Applications must meet the requirements of the Idaho Equal Opportunity for Displaced Homemaker Act. Since each center is also part of the statewide network, a representative from each site must attend state CND network meetings. Travel expenses to attend these meetings may be included in the budget.

Performance Indicators: Sixty-five percent (65%) or more of individuals served will enter the labor market and/or training programs.

Use of Funds: Funds are available to operate a service center, with a full-time coordinator and staff, who can provide services to single parents and displaced homemakers especially those who are low income, unemployed or underemployed. Funds may be used primarily for staff positions, travel to outreach areas, and testing materials. Limited amounts can be used for supplies and overhead expenses. Up to 5% may be used for staff professional development activities. Because of limited amounts of funding, the Division made a decision that state funds should not be used for child care and transportation needs; instead participants should be referred to other sources of funding.

Reporting: The Division is required by state law to present a report on Idaho Displaced Homemaker Programs annually to the House and Senate Education Committees. Twenty copies of the written report are sent to the Idaho State Library annually at their request. A list of other report recipients is kept in the Special Projects office.

Advisory Boards: Idaho Code states that the administrator of professional-technical education is responsible for appointing advisory board members for the displaced homemaker centers. The Division administrator opted to delegate this responsibility to Center for New Directions coordinators. To insure that this part of the law is being carried out, the Division keeps current lists of advisory board members on file.

Center for New Directions Coordinators: Although the Division highly recommends that center coordinators hold a master's degree in guidance and counseling, it is not a requirement since the position requires a great deal of administration. It is also recommended that coordinators hold a professional-technical education endorsement.

Idaho Code (39-4904) also states "to the greatest extent possible, the staff of the Centers shall be filled by displaced homemakers".

Contact Special Projects Coordinator, at 208-334-3216.

Approved: July 1, 2005